

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FRANKF 06505 171555Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 LAB-04 HEW-04 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05
ICA-11 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 PA-01 /133 W
-----124306 181906Z /44

R 171514Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2957
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USAREUR

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USAREUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ECEM, SENV, GW
SUBJ: CONTROVERSY ON STORAGE OF US-ORIGIN TOXIC CHEMICALS

REF: FRANKFURT 6343

THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE STORAGE OF ALLIED CHEMICAL'S
PRODUCT "KEPONE" IN NORTHEASTERN HESSE HAS BECOME
INCREASINGLY POLITICAL AND CONTINUES TO OCCUPY A FAIR
AMOUNT OF SPACE NOT ONLY IN LOCAL BUT IN SOME NATIONAL
GERMAN NEWSPAPERS, FREQUENTLY UNDER HEADLINES
FEATURING "U.S. POISON WASTE."

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2. IN THE BUNDESTAG CDU DEPUTY JENNINGER HAS WRITTEN
TO THE MINISTRY FOR YOUTH, FAMILY AND HEALTH DEMANDING
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN RAISED
AND ANSWERED LOCALLY IN HESSE. LOCALLY DREGGER HAS
ANNOUNCED HIS SERIOUS DOUBT THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR
SUCH PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. AND HAS DECLARED
IMPORTS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS FROM OVERSEAS WOULD NOT BE

TOLERATED IN A HESSIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP. THE SPD, INCLUDING MINISTER-PRESIDENT BORNER AND HIS SOCIAL DEMOCRAT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WILLI GORLACH, HAS BEEN ON THE DEFENSIVE. BORNER HAS CHARGED THAT THE CDU'S ATTEMPT TO POLITICIZE THE MATTER INDICATES HOW APPREHENSIVE AND NERVOUS THE OPPOSITION IS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE OCT 8 ELECTION. GORLACH, HOWEVER, WHILE DEFENDING THE ACTION OF THE AUTHORITIES IN GRANTING THE NECESSARY PERMITS FOR THE STORAGE OF ALLIED CHEMICALS PRODUCT HAS ALSO SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE A ONE TIME AFFAIR, AND THAT IN THE FUTURE AMERICAN COMPANIES WOULD HAVE TO FIND THEIR OWN STORAGE SITES AT HOME EVEN IF IT SHOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN MOVING AND STORING SUCH PRODUCTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THE PRESS IS ALSO PLAYING THE ISSUE STRICTLY ALONG PARTY LINES WITH THE CDU-ORIENTED PAPERS PLAYING IT UP WHILE THE SPD PRESS PLAYS IT DOWN.

3. COMMENT-SINCE STORAGE OF THE ALLIED CHEMICAL'S PRODUCT IN THE FRG CAME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN AN AMERICAN COMPANY WITH A COMMERCIALY OPERATED STORAGE FACILITY IN THE FRG (ALTHOUGH WITH APPROPRIATE PERMITS AND LICENSES FROM GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES). WE WOULD NOT SUGGEST INJECTING OURSELVES INTO THIS CONTROVERSY. AT THE SAME TIME THE FACT IS THAT SOMETHING FROM THE UNITED STATES (I.E. AN ALLEGEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIGHLY DANGEROUS CHEMICAL) HAS BECOME A MINOR POLITICAL ISSUE IN THE RATHER TENSE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THIS LAND WHERE AN ELECTION OF UNUSUAL SIGNIFICANCE WILL BE HELD ON OCT 8. IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO DAMPEN DOWN THIS CONTROVERSY, AND IF THERE IS ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION, AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD SERVE THIS END, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE IT. LEHMANN

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